NEWS RELEASE

Hon. Robert T. Matsui Member of Congress

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MATSUI OFFERS AMENDMENT TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

WASHINGTON, DC—Today Congressman Robert T. Matsui (D-CA) offered a substitute to H.R. 4019, which repeals the sunset on the Marriage Penalty Relief Act. Like the GOP bill, Rep. Matsui's substitute would have permanently extended the marriage penalty tax relief act, but only if it were determined that doing so would not impact the Social Security trust funds.

"This amendment would impose some much-needed fiscal discipline," said Matsui. "It only makes sense to take a deep breath before we move forward with policies that will drive us further into deficits and imperil the Social Security trust fund. By moving forward only with an OMB certification that we will not raid the trust fund, we can ensure the American people and the financial markets that we are serious about returning to fiscal responsibility and protecting Social Security."

Matsui's amendment specifically called for the Director of the OMB to certify in the year 2010 that repealing the sunset will not impact the Social Security trust funds over the following ten-year period. Under current law, an extension will not be needed until 2011, when the provisions of last year's tax cut package are set to expire.

"It's almost surreal that we are debating the extension of tax breaks that have not even taken effect yet," said Matsui.

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